

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. Phone companies typically tell people what their estimated phone bill is going to be, but when the actual bill arrives, it is quite a shock to discover how much more the bill really is. With all of the added taxes and mandatory charges, the phone bill can be anywhere from \$10 to \$30 higher or even more. There are always hidden charges for things that you didn't order, and would never want. It is high time that the FCC made held phone companies accountable for all of the charges on customer bills... and it is also time for us to see some sort of benefit from all of the fees and taxes we are required to pay.

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.